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VOL. XLIII.

PIOCHE, NEVADA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1893.

NO. 5.

## OLD INSTRUMENTS.

A BROOKLYN DEALER WHO HAS AN  
INTERESTING PAIR.

A Lute That is One Hundred and Twelve  
Years Old—A Lyre That Has Existed  
Nearly as Long—History of Various  
String Instruments.

William V. Pezzoni has on exhibition  
in a window in Brooklyn a lute that is  
112 years old. It is said to be the only  
one of its kind in existence. From a  
printed strip of paper in the interior  
of the instrument it is learned that it was  
made by Renault & Chatelein of Braque  
street, Paris, in 1781.

The lute is as old as the hills. It is  
mentioned several times in the Bible.  
Jubal, said by historians to have been  
the first musician, was the inventor of  
it, as he was of the organ and all string  
instruments. He flourished about 1,500  
years before the deluge and was the first  
to observe that strings of different sizes  
or lengths when stretched produced various  
sounds.

In the earliest ages of Egypt instru-  
ments having the same general form as  
the harp, lyre and guitar of modern times  
were common, as the discoveries of travel-  
ers in that country have proved. The  
ancients had many other stringed instru-  
ments, but these three classes were the  
principal ones.

The lyre is supposed to be more ancient  
than the harp. A very old painting at  
Beni-Hassan in Egypt represents the ar-  
rival of some foreigners in that country  
supposed to be Joseph's brethren. One  
of them holds a lyre having four strings.

The guitar is an improvement on the  
lyre. It is seldom found sculptured in the  
monuments of Greece and Rome, as the  
people did not consider the instru-  
ment sufficiently dignified to so symbo-  
lize it in the ruins of those proud  
cities. It was, however, one of the most  
ancient musical instruments of Egypt.

Some historians are of the opinion that  
Hermes, one of the Egyptian deities, in-  
vented the three stringed lyre. These  
strings gave forth three sounds—grave,  
mean and acute—representing respect-  
ively winter, spring and summer. The  
Egyptians and the Greeks, as is well  
known, divided the year only into three  
seasons.

The lute was adopted by the Arabs  
from Persia and reached the west about  
the time of the crusades. In the psalms  
of David it is spoken of as the mullah-  
lah, and it is said to have been used by  
the children of Israel in their rejoicings  
after the overthrow of Pharaoh's host.  
The modern Egyptian lute is a direct  
descendant of the Arabic lute. It has  
seven pairs of strings and is played by a  
plectrum. When frets are employed,  
they are disposed of according to the  
Arabic scale of 17 intervals in the oc-  
tave, consisting of 12 limmas—an in-  
terval rather less than a semitone.  
There are also five commas, which are  
very small, but quite recognizable as  
regards difference of pitch.

The large double necked lute has two  
sets of tuning pegs, the lower set for the  
finger board and the higher for the dis-  
sonant strings. This style lute was known  
as the theorbos. Its height varied from 3  
feet 6 inches to 5 feet. Very deep notes  
were produced from it. Another lute  
somewhat differently formed was known  
as the archlute. Both have, however, long  
since given away to the violoncello and  
double bass.

Handel wrote a part for the lute  
theorbos in 1720. After this date the lute  
appears no more in orchestral scores. It  
remained, however, in private use until  
the close of the century.

Venero of Padua, celebrated as a maker  
of lutes, flourished in 1660. His instru-  
ments were highly ornamental and were  
admired for their beauty, ivory, mother  
of pearl and tortoise shell being used in  
decorating them. The present direction  
of musical taste and composition is ad-  
verse to the cultivation of such tenderly  
sensitive timber as the lute possessed.

The instrument has now become an ob-  
ject of research for collectors and mu-  
seums. It was a favorite instrument of  
music in the sixteenth and seventeenth  
centuries, but declined in the eighteenth  
century. The great J. S. Bach wrote a  
partita for it, which still remains in  
manuscript. The latest engraved publi-  
cation for the lute is 1760.

Mr. Pezzoni was placed in the posses-  
sion of the lute a short time ago by  
Signor Giuseppe Vitale, a prominent  
Brooklyn musician, who obtained it at a  
pawnbroker's sale. It is a very valuable  
instrument, although it was sadly in  
need of repair when it came into Mr. Pez-  
zoni's hands. He has been offered sums  
for it varying from \$5 to \$200, but it is  
not for sale.

The lute is a handsome one. The body  
is pear shaped. It is beautifully inlaid  
with ivory and pearl. The neck is 28  
inches long. The fingerboard, containing  
17 frets, is 18 1/2 inches long, and the body,  
with a three inch sound hole, is 15 1/2  
inches long. The base of the instrument  
is 4 1/2 inches deep, while at the neck it is  
3 inches. It has 16 strings, 8 of which  
are designed for the bass. The head, or  
nut, is divided into two sections and con-  
tains the pegs, or keys. One of these  
sections is 12 inches long and the other  
14 inches. The latter is used for the  
open bass strings, which are above and  
independent of the fingerboard. Four  
of the middle strings are double and are  
formed from very fine wire. The re-  
maining strings are of silk wound with  
copper wire.—New York World.

## CURING A NERVOUS CRANK.

Treatment Employed in Restoring a Well  
Man Who Imagined He Was Ill.

On the east side lives a physician whose  
success in the treatment of nervous dis-  
orders has brought to him, rather against  
his own wishes, considerable practice  
among a class whom he describes as  
"nervous cranks." One of these pa-  
tients, a man of large means, had caused  
no end of trouble to the doctor, who,  
seeing that the case was purely one of  
mental idiosyncrasy, was unwilling to  
prescribe a course of drugging or other  
injurious treatment. The man insisted  
that his nervous system was completely  
unstrung and that the physician should  
take his case in hand.

"There you can see how nervous I  
am," said the patient one day, in the doc-  
tor's office, as he picked up an incandes-  
cent electric light bulb from an adjoining  
table. "Look at that. See how that  
carbon coil inside of the bulb vibrates  
and trembles from my nervousness!"

"Very well," replied the physician, de-  
termined now to deal with the case in  
another way, "you are more nervous  
than I supposed, but I think I can fetch  
you out all right in five or six weeks."

An assortment of bogus pills and po-  
tions was given to the patient, and he  
was placed under a rigid rule for sleep,  
diet, baths and exercise. His physical  
health, which had been excellent to be-  
gin with, improved steadily, but his nerv-  
ous condition, as indicated by the fluc-  
tuations of the incandescent bulb, which  
he found conveniently at hand every  
time he visited the doctor's office showed  
little or no trace of mending.

One day, however, near the end of the  
fourth week, the patient, upon taking  
the bulb from its accustomed place and  
holding it up to the light, was surprised  
to find that the vibrations of the carbon  
were almost nothing. Beaming with  
new hopefulness, he called the physi-  
cian's attention to the fact. The latter  
was surprised and delighted. The pa-  
tient tested himself with the bulb in his  
right hand, then changed it to his left  
and then repeated the operation, always  
with the same gratifying result. The  
treatment had done its work. He felt  
like a well man. He was satisfied from  
the first that those pills would fix him.

"He sailed for Europe the other day,"  
remarked the physician, "and as he is to  
remain abroad for five years I guess  
there is no danger of his learning how I  
cured him. He was so taken with the  
idea of testing the condition of his nerv-  
ous system by the vibrations of the car-  
bon in that electric light bulb that I lu-  
mored his fancy. After three or four  
weeks of careful living, and when he had  
put himself into first class physical con-  
dition, I simply changed the bulbs for  
him. For the ordinary bulb containing  
a carbon coil I substituted one that I  
had made with a fine coil of oxidized  
silver wire closely resembling the other  
and which was so stiff that it was cap-  
able of almost no vibration when the bulb  
was held in the patient's hand. He took  
it, saw that the vibrations had ceased  
and concluded that he was cured."

"In some way, perhaps by accident or  
when in condition of mental excitement,  
he had noticed the trembling of the car-  
bon in a bulb when held in the hand,  
and had instantly made up his mind that  
he was suffering from nervous disorder.  
He insisted upon using the same means  
in testing his progress toward recovery  
that had first persuaded him that he was  
ill, and I was compelled to acquiesce  
and treat him from that basis. He had  
evidently had little experience with these  
bulbs. Ordinary tests and observation  
would have shown him that no man,  
however sound, can hold an incandescent  
bulb in his unsupported hand so steadily  
that the carbon inside of it will not vi-  
brate."—New York Herald.

## Street Cars Run by Natural Gas.

The cars are of the ordinary size, but  
are constructed entirely of natural gas  
pipes, ranging in size from six inches  
down. These hollow tubes are neatly  
carved, so that to the average observer  
the fact that they are built of such ma-  
terial is not noticed. These pipes are  
heavily charged with gas, and with the  
aid of a boiler and the engines at work  
beneath the floor it is said a run of 30  
miles can be made without refilling the  
tubes. A speed can be obtained equal  
to that of cars run by the electric  
method. It said that one of the latter  
will cost \$6,000 for its construction,  
while a gas car can be made for \$2,000.  
Either artificial or natural gas can be  
used as the propelling power. It is fur-  
ther asserted by its inventor that to  
operate it a day of 19 hours will cost but  
\$1.14, while the expense of running an  
electric car for the same period will be  
\$6.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

## The Stupid Husband of a Noted Singer.

Catalani's husband, a handsome French-  
man, was even more unintelligent than  
his wife—he was stupid. Once, having  
found the pitch of the piano too high, he  
said after the rehearsal to her husband:  
"The piano is too high. Will you see  
that it is made lower before the con-  
cert?"

When the evening came, Catalani was  
amused to find that the piano had not  
been altered. Her husband sent for the  
carpenter, who declared that he had  
sawed off two inches from each leg, as  
he had been ordered to do. "Surely it  
can't be too high now, my dear!" said  
the stupid husband soothingly.—Youth's  
Companion.

## The City and the Country Dude.

A city dude seldom does anything  
worth chronicling, for he is universally  
regarded as empty headed, incapable of  
even arousing genuine curiosity. But a  
country dude—well, he is pretty cer-  
tain to be interesting. Here is a spec-  
imen: A Buckfield young man recently  
tried to lift his carriage out of the mud  
while standing on the axle to save sol-  
ing his shoes.—Bar Harbor Record.

## Detecting a Culprit.

The Rev. Joseph Haven, who preached  
in Rochester, N. H., during the last  
quarter of the last century, has been al-  
ways remembered for his genial spirit  
and his inexhaustible humor. One story  
told of him has many parallels, but it is  
quite as likely to be true in his case as  
in any.

The boy had been guilty of some grave  
offense, and yet would not confess it.  
"I can tell you did it," said the parson,  
and accordingly he called together all  
the boys suspected and explained to them  
that he had confined a rooster under a  
kettle in a darkened room. One after  
another they must pass in and touch the  
kettle. When the guilty boy touched it, he  
might expect to hear the rooster crow.

The lads filed in and out again and  
were made to display their fingers. All  
but those of one lad were sooty. He, the  
guilty one, had not ventured to touch  
the telltale kettle.—Youth's Companion.

## Sensible Treatment of Corns.

Light shoes, short shoes and clumsy  
shoes produce corns by compressing,  
cramping and rubbing against the joints.  
A great many of these pedal blemishes  
are hereditary. In any case it is a good  
plan to suppress them. Every medicine  
merchant has a variety of "cures," and  
nearly all give temporary relief. A  
poultice made of vinegar soaked bread  
crumbs will cure a little corn in one  
night. It is not advisable to let a corn  
grow. Either rub down the formation  
with pumice stone or remove it with a  
knife. A little opposition will discour-  
age it, provided sensible shoes are worn.  
In pedicuring, as in manicuring, the feet  
should be soaked in hot water and as  
much of the waste material brushed and  
rubbed off as possible.—New York  
World.

## Witchcraft in the Nineteenth Century.

At the Yeovil borough petty sessions  
on Tuesday Frederick Terrell, a bus  
driver, was bound over in his own recog-  
nizance of £10 to keep the peace for six  
months for having threatened Harriet  
Carew on March 24. The defendant had  
gone to the complainant, accused her of  
being an "old witch" and asked her to  
take a spell off his sister. He said he  
would beat her brains out and throw  
her over a wall if she would come out of  
her house. He also accused her of stay-  
ing up all night and burning stuff with  
which to bewitch people. Since then  
people had called "witch" after her in  
the streets.—Hilfcombe Gazette.

## Lord Sherbrooke.

Lord said that when he was minister  
of education a parent would sometimes  
consult him about sending his son to a  
public school. His invariable answer  
was: "My advice would be not to send  
him to a public school. But if you feel  
bound to send him to your own public  
school take him away as soon as possi-  
ble." I think it was Talleyrand who  
said of the English public schools, "Elles  
sont les meilleures du monde, mais elles  
sont detestables!"—London Spectator.

New honors have been heaped upon  
the dowager Marchioness of London-  
derry. She has been admitted by the  
archbishop of Merioneth as church ward-  
en for the parish of Machynlleth.

Mme. Madeline Lemaire and Mlle.  
Breslau, who are serving on the jury of  
the salon of the Champ de Mars, are the  
first women who have held that position  
in any salon.

Fashionable dressmakers complain  
that the skirt trimming upon many of  
the new gowns is so intricate that their  
mastery is almost like "learning the  
trade over."



## "When I was a Boy,"

Writes Postmaster J. C. WOODSON,  
Forest Hill, W. Va., "I had a bron-  
chial trouble of such a persistent  
and stubborn character, that the  
doctor pronounced it incurable with  
ordinary medicines, and advised  
me to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.  
I did so, and one bottle cured me.  
For the last fifteen years, I have  
used this preparation with good  
effect whenever I take it.

## A Bad Cold,

and I know of numbers of people  
who keep it in the house all the time.  
Not considering it safe to be with-  
out it."

"I have been using Ayer's Cherry  
Pectoral in my family for 30 years, with  
the most satisfactory results, and can  
cheerfully recommend it as being espe-  
cially adapted to all pulmonary com-  
plaints. I have, for many years, made  
pulmonary and other medicines a special  
study, and I have come to the conclusion  
that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral occupies a  
position pre-eminent over other medi-  
cines of the class."—Chas. Davenport,  
Dover, N. J.

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where, our low cash price \$4.00.

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ors and black, with latest styles Cape  
Collar, trimmed in fur or serpentine Mo-  
hair braid, worth \$10.00 elsewhere, our  
low cash price \$7.00.

All wool Beaver Jackets, with new  
"Worth" Cape Collar, worth \$15.00 else-  
where, our low cash price \$12.50.

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Capes, with fur edging, worth \$10.00,  
our low cash price \$8.00.

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tisement. These garments have just  
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Heavy weight School Cloaks, cape col-  
lar, worth \$4.00, for \$3.00.

Heavy all wool Cloaks, for School Chil-  
dren, worth \$7.50, for \$5.00.

Misses' Fall and Winter weight Jack-  
ets, with Butterfly collars, worth \$5.50,  
for \$4.00.

Misses' all wool Jackets, with Butter-  
fly collars, in navy, black and brown,  
worth \$7.00, for \$5.00.

Infants' long Cream Cashmere Cloaks,  
with Embroidered Capes, worth \$3.00,  
for \$2.00.

Infants' Short Cloaks, in gray and tan  
mottled flannel, worth \$3.25, for \$2.50.

Infants' all wool Serge Short Cloaks,  
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cardinal and navy, worth \$5.00, for \$4.00.

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